

24-86

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

MAY 29 1986

DATE:

SUBJECT:

Preliminary Assessment and Removal Funding Request for Signo/Coty Warehouse Site, Staten Island, Richland County, New York - ACTION MEMORANDUM

FROM: Thomas M. Kady, On-Scene Coordinator
Response and Prevention Branch



TO: William J. Librizzi, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 20, 1986, Norman Nosenchuck, Director of the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) formally requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) undertake a Removal Action under CERCLA to mitigate the threat posed by drums and bags of chemicals, predominantly pesticides, stored on the Coty Enterprises, Ltd. property in Staten Island, New York.

On-site investigations by EPA have confirmed the presence of approximately 17,000 pounds and over 2,000 gallons of pesticides and chemical solvents improperly stored in a truck trailer at this site. The drums and bags in which these materials are stored are in varying stages of deterioration. Many containers are leaking. Some drums are labeled as containing flammable liquids with flash points as low as 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Provided an ignition source is present, a threat of fire or explosion exists, as temperatures within the trailer will greatly exceed 70 degrees in the upcoming weeks.

These chemicals pose a serious threat to the warehouse employees, citizens in the community and firefighters who may respond to a fire at the warehouse. A Removal Action is herein recommended to mitigate the threat of harm to human health and the environment posed by this site. The removal action would initially reduce the severity of the hazard, and then remove the hazard all together at an estimated total project cost of \$175,000.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Site Setting/Description

The Coty Enterprises, Ltd. warehouse is located at 600 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, New York. The site is situated in a predominantly industrial area in close proximity to a large residential population. Several high-rise apartment buildings are located within a few hundred

feet of the warehouse. Homes are on the hill behind the warehouse. The Kill Van Kull is located approximately 1000 feet north of the site, and to the east is Upper New York Bay.

The Coty warehouse accepted for storage a truck trailer filled with various chemicals, predominantly pesticides, from Signo Trading International in April of 1983. The chemicals have been unloaded into the warehouse several times for inspection and inventory by NYSDEC and EPA. Except for these inspections, the trailer of chemicals has been stored in a fenced area behind the warehouse since the original delivery. The gate to this area is not locked, but the trailer is.

The New York City Fire Department responded on several occasions to the warehouse upon notification of leaks emanating from the pesticide containers. Subsequently, the New York City Fire Department along with the City Corporation Counsel filed suit to have the materials removed. This action led to legal proceedings as discussed in Section IV of this memorandum.

B. Quantities and Types of Substances Present

Presently stored on the Coty Enterprises, Ltd. property in Staten Island, are approximately 63 drums and 338 bags of chemicals, predominantly pesticides. The drums are in various stages of deterioration with many opened and leaking. The bags have been covered with plastic and shrink-packed, but some are torn and are spilling their contents. The contents of the drums and bags, taken from legible labels, are as follows:

Compound	Amount	Size	Total Quantity	Statutory Source For Designation Under CERCLA
Calcium Arsenate	180 bags	50 lbs.	9,000 lbs.	CWA Section 311(b)(4)
Kepone	158 bags	50 lbs.	7,900 lbs.	CWA Section 311(b)(4) RCRA Section 3001
DDT liquid	4 drums	55 gal.	220 gal.	CWA Section 311(b)(4)
DDT powder	8 drums	55 gal.	440 gal.	CWA Section 307(a) RCRA Section 3001
Oakite stripper with MeCl ₂	1 drums	55 gal.	55 gal.	CWA Section 307(a) RCRA Section 3001
Polyester resin with styrene	1 drum	55 gal.	55 gal.	CWA Section 311(b)(4)
Heptachlor	2 drums	55 gal.	110 gal.	CWA Section 311(b)(4) CWA Section 307(a) RCRA Section 3001
Malathion	5 drums	55 gal.	275 gal.	CWA Section 311(b)(4)
Methoxychlor/ malathion	18 drums	5 gal.	90 gal.	CWA Section 311(b)(4) CWA Section 311(b)(4) RCRA Section 3001
Paint/Shellac	4 drums	5 gal.	20 gal.	
Methoxychlor	2 drums	55 gal.	110 gal.	CWA Section 311(b)(4) RCRA Section 3001
Unknown	4 drums	5 gal.	20 gal.	
Unknown	1 drum	10 gal.	10 gal.	
Unknown	4 drums	30 gal.	120 gal.	
Unknown	9 drums	55 gal.	495 gal.	

The health effects from the compounds identified are shown below:

HEALTH EFFECTS

Compound Found	1. Carcinogenicity	2. Mutagenicity	3. Liver Damage	4. Kidney Damage	5. Lung Damage (Respiratory)	6. Central Nervous System Damage	7. Skin Effects	8. Blood Cholinesterase Damage
Calcium Arsenate	X		X	X	X			
Kepone	X		X	X	X			
DDT	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Heptachlor	X		X	X	X			
Malathion			X	X	X	X	X	
Methoxychlor				X		X		
Polyester resin with styrene					X	X	X	
Oakite stripper with methylene chloride	X							
			X		X	X		

C. National Priorities List Designation

This site is not on the National Priorities List.

III. THREAT

A. Threat to Public Exposure

The primary threat posed by this site is that of fire and explosion. As mentioned above, the drums are in various stages of deterioration with many opened and leaking. Some of the drums are labeled as flammable liquids having flash points as low as 70 degrees Fahrenheit. They are stored in a truck trailer in the warehouse yard. The trailer, which is not equipped with a ventilation system, is exposed to the sun. In this situation, temperatures within the trailer can greatly exceed the flash point of the flammable liquids stored there. The result can be fire and explosion in the presence of an ignition source.

The results of such a fire or explosion could be catastrophic. Potentially toxic fumes could affect residents of the nearby high-rise apartments and houses on the hill behind the warehouse. In addition, fire could spread to the warehouse, which reportedly has no fire detection system or sprinkler system. As such, containing a fire to the warehouse would be difficult. A fire of the magnitude of the Patterson and Passaic fires, two major fires which occurred in similar industrial parks in New Jersey last fall, is foreseeable.

B. Evidence of Extent of Release

As mentioned above, the drums and bags are in various stages of deterioration. Many drums have leaked, and several of the bags are torn and are spilling their contents. Also, the trailer has been off-loaded in the warehouse several times for inspection and inventory, exposing workers to the leaking and spilling hazardous substances.

C. Previous Actions to Abate Threat

Signo Trading has been allowed access to the chemicals for the purpose of inspecting and properly labeling the drums and bags for sale overseas. Only the DDT drums have been relabeled. The bags have been covered with plastic and shrink-packed. With these exceptions no further action to date has been taken to mitigate the threat of release.

D. Current Action to Abate Threat

Except for the proposed project in this memo, no further action to mitigate the threat posed by this site is known to be underway.

IV. ENFORCEMENT

Until recently, the NYSDEC has maintained the lead on all enforcement matters relating to the materials in the Coty warehouse. On December 14, 1984, both Coty Enterprises, Ltd. and Signo Trading International, Ltd. were issued a court order by the Supreme Court of the State of New York to remove and dispose of the pesticides within 21 days. This court order was violated by both defendants. On November 12, 1985, both Coty Enterprises and Signo Trading were issued a show-cause order by the same court requiring them to appear in court to answer the noncompliance with the December 14, 1984, court order. This second order was also violated by both defendants; thus, the NYSDEC has exercised its right to consider the materials as waste requiring proper disposal.

This site has been referred to the Site Investigation and Compliance Branch and Regional Counsel. Notice letters have been sent, and a unilateral Administrative Order pursuant to Section 106 of CERCLA is forthcoming, following an initial response by EPA.

V. PROPOSED PROJECT AND COST

A. Objectives of the Project

The objectives of this project are to: 1) immediately mitigate the threat of fire and explosion; and 2) remove and dispose of the hazardous substances stored in the truck trailer at this site.

The first objective will be achieved by performing the following tasks.

1) Segregation

Initially the materials will be segregated by existing identification labels and by the condition of containers. Resegregation may be necessary upon receipt of sample results.

2) Sampling

All materials will be sampled for disposal purposes. Materials that can be incinerated will be analyzed for BTU, ash, metal, total halogen and PCB content.

In addition, drums and bags which appear to contain

usable product will be sampled to verify the identity and quality of the contents. This information will be used to hopefully find manufacturers to reclaim the materials or suitable businesses to accept the products.

3) Overpacking

Leaking drums will be overpacked, and torn bags will be repackaged.

4) Storage/Security

All materials will be stored on-site in a secure, shaded, well ventilated area.

The second objective will be achieved by performing the following tasks, listed in order of preference.

- 1) Find manufacturers to reclaim the materials or suitable businesses to accept the products.
- 2) Incinerate the materials.
- 3) Landfill those materials that cannot be incinerated.

B. Project Estimated Cost

The costs associated with the mitigative actions outlined above are as follows:

1) ERCS Costs

a. Mobilization/Demobilization	\$ 2,900
b. Sampling and Analysis	33,100
c. Segregation, Staging, Overpacking, and Security	23,000
d. Landfill Disposal (materials that cannot be incinerated)	22,200
e. Incineration	32,500

SUBTOTAL	\$ 113,700
2) Contingency (20% of \$113,700)	22,740

SUBTOTAL (Contract Mitigation Costs)	\$ 136,440

3) Intramural EPA Costs	4,500
4) Extramural (TAT) Costs	9,000

SUBTOTAL	\$ 149,940
5) Other Costs (15% of \$149,940)	22,490

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$ 172,430 *
SAY	\$ 175,000 *

* Note that these costs will be significantly less if manufacturers or businesses accept reclaimable or usable products.

C. Project Schedule

The project can be initiated within one week of approval of the request for fund authorization. Segregating, sampling, overpacking, and securing the drums and bags of chemicals will require one to two weeks. Final removal/disposal should be complete within two weeks of receipt of sample analyses. Assuming a two-week turnaround for sampling results, the entire project will take about seven weeks.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

Conditions at the Signo/Coty Warehouse site meet the criteria for a Removal Action under 40 CFR 300.65 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) in that there exists:

- 1) Actual or potential exposure to hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants by nearby populations, animals or food chain, 300.65(b)(2)(i);
- 2) Hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage containers, that may pose a threat of release, 300.65(b)(2)(iii);
- 3) Weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants to migrate or be released, 300.65(b)(2)(v); and
- 4) Threat of fire or explosion, 300.65(b)(2)(vi).

I therefore recommend your approval of the Removal Funding Request. The estimated cost of this project is \$175,000 of which \$136,440 is for mitigation contracting. Your authority to authorize these funds is pursuant to Deputy Administrator Alvin Alm's April 16, 1984 memorandum, Delegation Number 14-1-A, and Richard T. Dewling's Redelelegation Order RII 1200.6 of August 29, 1984.

APPROVAL: William J. Librizzi
DISAPPROVAL: _____

DATE: 5/29/86
DATE: _____

cc: (after approval is obtained)

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